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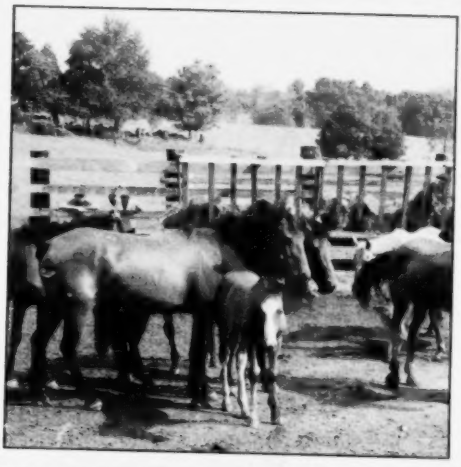
WILD HORSE & BURRO DISTRIBUTION CENTER



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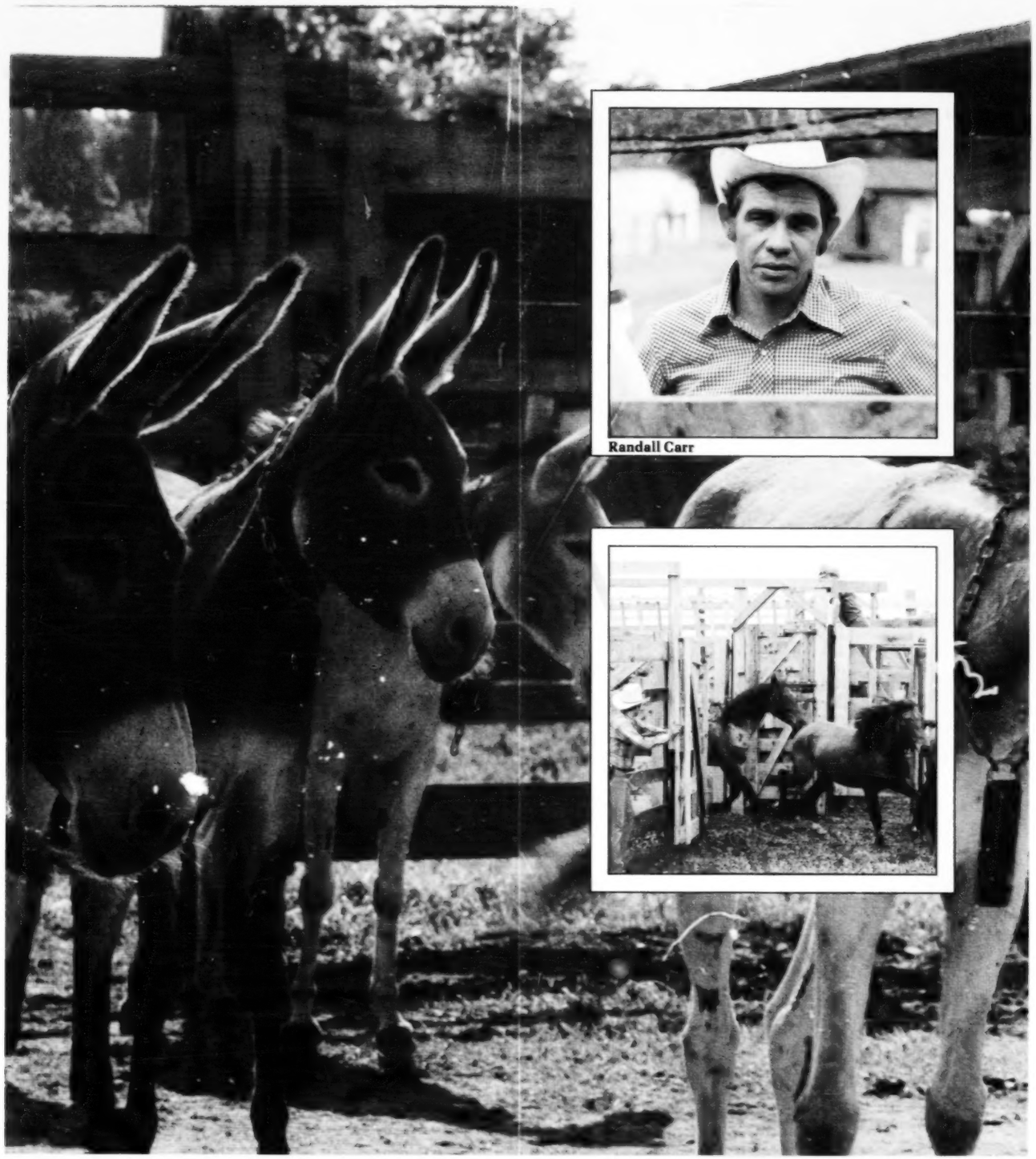
CROSS PLAINS, TENNESSEE



Randall Carr

Outside the town of Cross Plains, Tennessee, thirty miles north of Nashville and within a day's drive of most eastern states, you'll find the East's first Wild Horse and Burro Distribution Center.

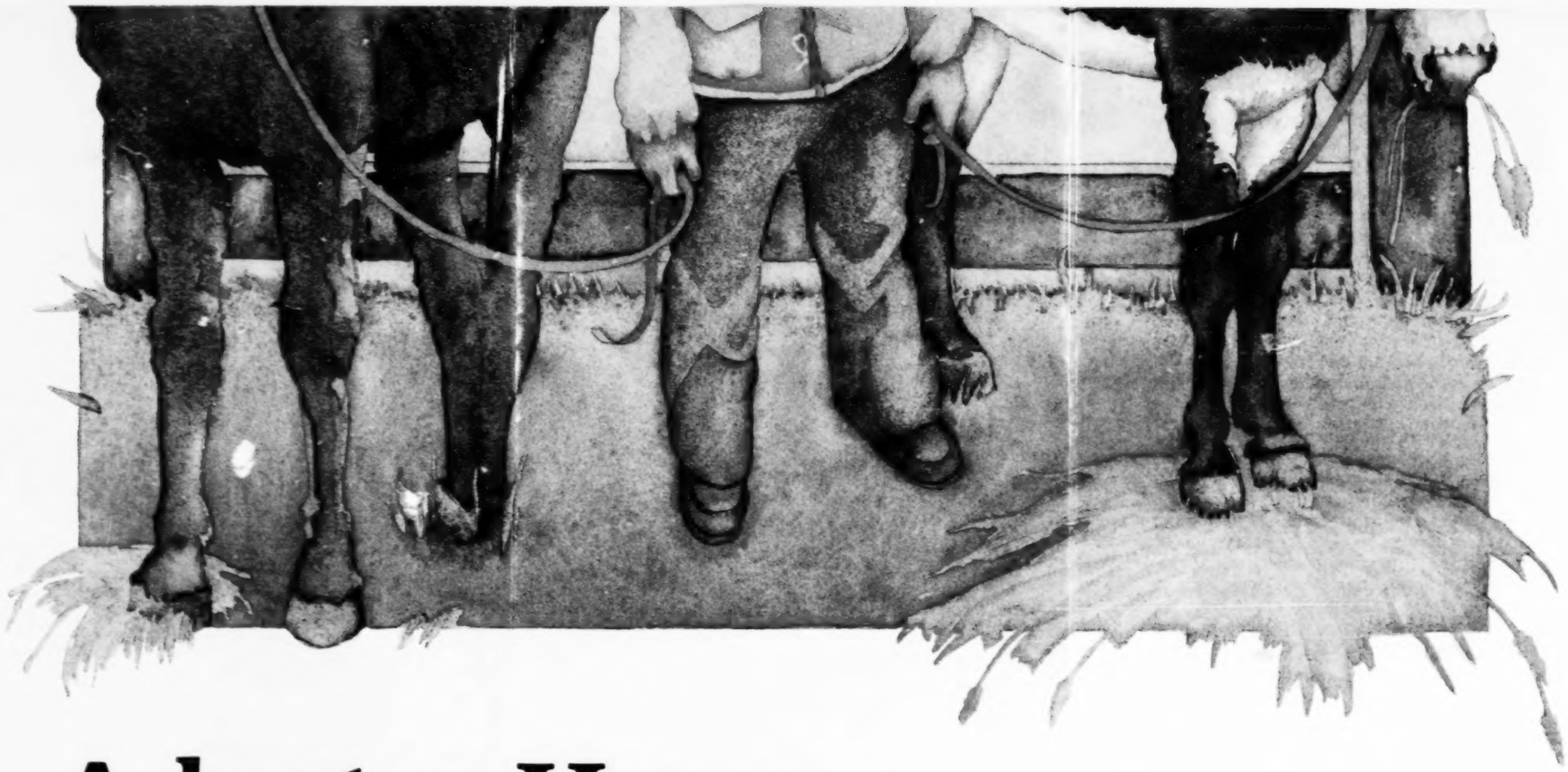
The center is part of the Adopt-a-Horse Program, an activity of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Adopt-a-Horse Program is a partial solution to the problem of overpopulation among wild horse and burro herds on the public rangelands. Over 54,000 wild horses and 9,000 burros roam these areas in eight western states. They must share the land with native wildlife, as well as sheep and cattle, and sometimes their numbers outstrip the ability of the land to support them. Wild horses and burros have no natural enemies, and are protected by law under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. As the most humane approach to maintaining an ecological balance between the animals and their habitat, BLM rounds up excess wild horses and burros and makes them available for adoption by private individuals.

The distribution center was opened in Tennessee to make it easier than ever before for easterners to adopt a wild horse or burro. With the center in place, it's no longer necessary for adopters to drive to BLM holding facilities out West. Now the animals—as many as a thousand a year—are coming East.

The distribution center is a family operation, built and operated for BLM by Randall Carr, his wife Paula, sister Linda Buntin, and brother-in-law James Buntin. Randall and family built the corrals—by hand—on acreage they have farmed for most of 25 years. Five generations of Carrs live on the farm today.

Wild horses and burros are not native to America. The first modern-day horses and burros arrived with the Spanish conquistadors. The horses and burros you'll find at the center are the descendants of animals that escaped or were released to the wild



Adopt-a-Horse or Burro

Regional Wild Horse and Burro Distribution Center
Cross Plains, Tennessee

**For information, contact the Bureau of Land Management,
Eastern States Office, 350 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, Va. 22304**

over the years. You'll discern traces of many breeds among the horses—foremost among them the Morgan, Arabian, thoroughbred and quarter horse.

You'll also notice that the horses at the center are separated from the burros. In order to keep peace among the stallions, males are kept apart from females. Also, for safety's sake, mares with foals get their own pen. (And, incidentally, adopters who pick up a foal must adopt the dam as well.) Some of the females are already pregnant; when foaling season arrives, a number of adopters who picked up a mare or a Jennie find themselves with a bonus.

Once every two weeks or so—except when roundups are suspended for one reason or another—BLM ships a truckload of wild horses or burros to the center, where the Carrs and Buntins care for the animals until their new guardians arrive. At the center, the adopters select their new charges, complete the necessary paper work, and back up their trailers to the specially designed corral gate, where Randall and James do the loading.

People who come to adopt an animal at the center have already arranged the adoption through BLM. Once the adopters arrive, Paula and Linda help them with the remaining paper work. In the space of a single year, anyone of legal age in his or her state may apply for up to four animals. The wild horses and burros are free, but adopters do have to pay shipping and veterinary fees at the center. The main requirements of adopters are that they have adequate facilities for the horses or burros, that they treat them humanely, and that they not put them to commercial use. BLM runs follow-up checks on many adoptions to ensure that the animals are treated well.

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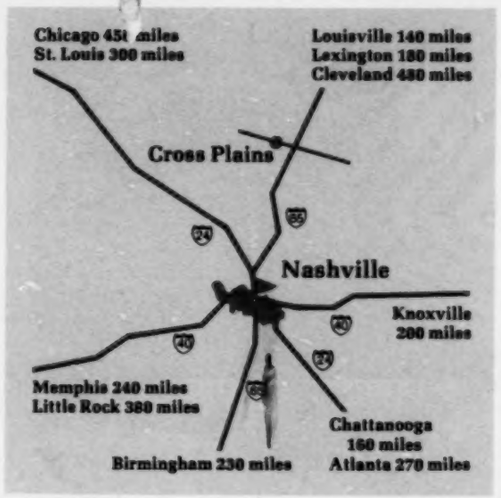
For more information about the Adopt-a-Horse Program, contact:

Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
350 S. Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

If you decide you'd like to adopt a wild horse or burro, write for an application to:

Adopt-a-Horse
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225



Directions: From Nashville, take Route I-65 North to Exit 112. Turn West and drive approximately four miles to Cross Plains. Continue one mile past town, turn right at Carr-Couts Road, and continue one more mile. The center is on the left.

The Wild Horse and Burro Distribution Center opens each weekday at 8:00 a.m., and members of the public are invited to visit the facility. Because roundups of wild horses and burros are suspended at certain times, visitors should call ahead to the center to be certain it's open. Special arrangements may also be made for visits by civic, church, school, and other groups. Call Paula Carr at (615) 654-2180.

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